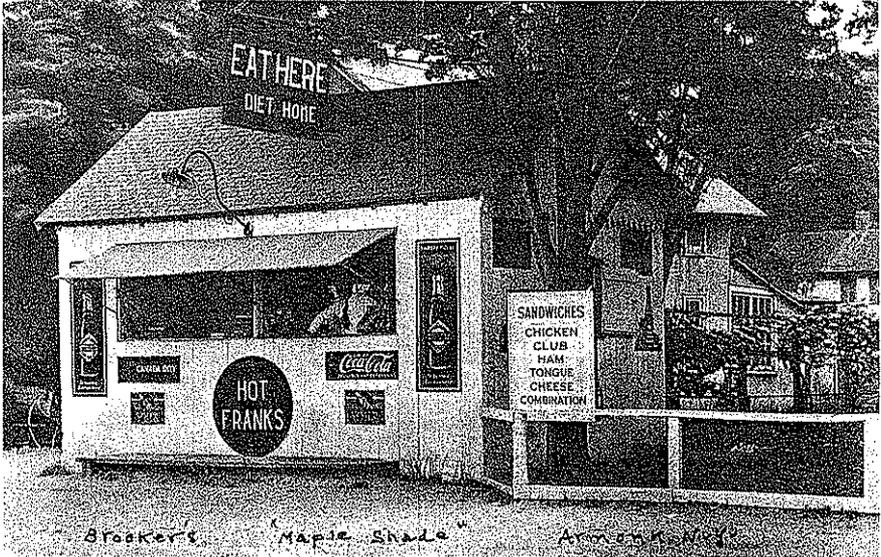


NORTH CASTLE HISTORY



Collection of The North Castle Historical Society
Donation of Mrs. William Bates

BROOKER'S MAPLE SHADE
MAIN STREET, ARMONK 1930s

"EAT HERE – DIET HOME"
(See Back Cover)

THE NORTH CASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 34 -- 2007

TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

Martha Baratta	Dorothy O'Keefe
J. Stuart Brown, Vice President	Jack Paschke, President
Jodi Pember Burns	Constance Quarrie
Barbara DiGiacinto, Treasurer	Sam Samaha
Judy Early	Ree Schultz, Trustee-at-Large
Vincent Fiore, Trustee-at-Large	Sharon Tomback, Co-Recording and Corresponding Secretary
Eileen Herbert	Doris Finch Watson
Becky Kittredge	Melissa Taylor White
Joan Krantz, Co-Recording Secretary	Edward Woodyard, Vice President
Barbara Massi	
Robby Morris	

Ex-Officio: North Castle Town Historian Doris Finch Watson

MEMBERSHIPS

Annual

Family \$30 * Individual \$20 * Sustaining \$50

Patron \$100 * Corporate/Business \$100

Life

Life Member \$300 (paid once)

**The North Castle Historical Society is chartered by
The Regents of The University of The State of New York.**

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Sharon Tomback, Editor
Sheila Smith Drapeau * Doris Finch Watson
Design and Mechanicals, Sharon Tomback

The North Castle Historical Society is not responsible for the accuracy of statements and signed articles.

Any reprint of material appearing in North Castle History must give specific credit to the author and The Society.

Table of Contents

President's Letter	2
The Middle Patent Rural Cemetery Association by Doris Finch Watson	3
Carrie Townsend Carpenter (1848-1911) by Sharon Tomback	16
The Zodiacs, A Fife & Drum Corps	25
The Townsend-Wago House	26
A Treasure Saved by Doris Finch Watson	28
The Elijah Miller House-Washington's Headquarters	31
Trustees of The Society	Inside Back Cover

Photographs, Drawings and Maps

Brooker's Maple Shade, 1930s	Front Cover
Samuel Banks' Gravestone dated 1743	4
Dr. Ralph B. Griswold (1835-1917)	6
William S. Finch (1852-1934)	6
Shadrach R. Close (1847-1936)	6
Dr. Ralph B. Griswold Home, circa 1898	7
Charles G. Banks (1846-1934)	8
David B. Reynolds (1850-1938)	9
Middle Patent Cemetery Office and Storage Building, 2007	10
Cemetery Association Directors at Work, 2007	12
Cemetery Lake, Dorrie's Island and the Bridge, 2007	13
Cemetery Lake Memorial, 1973	14
Carrie Townsend Carpenter (1848-1911)	16
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, an Early Picture	17
Townsend Homestead at the Turn of the Century	18
Israel Townsend (1791-1855)	19
Samuel O. Townsend (1821-1891)	19
David Carpenter (1812-1902)	19
Rees Carpenter (1789-1871)	19
Reese Carpenter (d. 1914)	20
Reese and Carrie Townsend Carpenter Gravestones, 2007	22
Kensico Cemetery Train Station, an Early Picture	23
Car Kensico, about 1897	24
Joseph, Elizabeth and Goldie Wago, about 1918	25
Townsend - Wago House, about 1918	25
Daniel Smith House, 2007	29
The Zodiacs, 1970	30



*Smith's Tavern
Society's Headquarters
Listed on the State Park, SHSP
and National Register of Historic Places*

The North Castle Historical Society

440 BEDFORD ROAD ARMONK, NEW YORK 10504

Dear Members and Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of The North Castle Historical Society I would first like to thank all of you for your continued support and participation this past year.

Our major programs continued to grow in size and quality due to the dedication of our volunteers. These programs included our Colonial Crafts Days for 4th graders, 29th annual Armonk Antiques Show, 35th Annual Meeting, and our President's Holiday reception. We also hosted a very special and well-attended event in June honoring Judge Peter K. Leisure, whose family farm was the original site of our 1798 Quaker Meeting House.

We also acknowledge and give special thanks to our Docents, who guide our visitors through Historic Smith's Tavern and our other buildings. If you have not had the opportunity to visit our Historic Smith's Tavern Complex recently, please stop by with your family and friends and be treated to a guided tour by one of our knowledgeable docents.

I would be remiss if I did not mention all of the efforts of our Board, Society members and other concerned citizens who spent considerable time in the struggle to preserve the Bedford Road Historic District from incursions of the Armonk Square development project. Our beautiful 19th century streetscape, the only National Register Historic District in North Castle, is now slated to have a two-lane road through it to provide egress to parking, shopping and housing. We were able to get the proposal modified to eliminate adjacent parking spaces and preserve a large tree. However, the whole experience is a stark reminder that our historical heritage can only be preserved by proactive efforts by groups such as ours to closely monitor development activities in our town.

Jack Paschke, President

THE MIDDLE PATENT RURAL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1743 INCORPORATED 1907
Celebrating 100 Years of Incorporation

by Doris Finch Watson, North Castle Town Historian

A beautiful September day,¹ filled with radiant sunshine and fleecy clouds, graced the special gathering on the south field of the Cemetery. Some eighty people, plot owners, friends, neighbors and Directors,² gathered to celebrate and honor those who worked 100 years ago to incorporate and save the ancient Cemetery which had fallen into a sorrowful state of neglect.

Now, 100 years later, it is hard to realize the obstacles those caring people faced, and later in the story we will talk about and explain them. But, for now, let us reflect on the glorious celebration.

THE CELEBRATION AFTERNOON

A brief business meeting took place at two o'clock when Cemetery President John Stuart Brown called the meeting to order. Secretary-Treasurer Doris Finch Watson presented an annual report. The election of directors and committee reports followed. President Brown then invited guests to enjoy the Celebration Program.

THE CELEBRATION PROGRAM

After an invocation prayer offered by The Rev. Harry Abernathy, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, the Armonk Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Constance Quarrie led the singing of "America the Beautiful" and "God Bless America". The author presented a short history of the Cemetery, followed by a prayer of re-dedication offered by Rabbi Douglas E. Krantz, Congregation B'Nai Yisrael, Armonk. Director Marjorie L. Erf presented an award honoring past President Stuart E. Benedict. Director Meg Curry Gregg invited all present to tour the special features in the Cemetery and to remember those forebears honored.

¹ September 16, 2007.

² Directors for 2007 are J. Stuart Brown, Marjorie L. Erf, Meg Curry Gregg, Jeffrey Krack, Linda Nardone, Howard Pinchbeck, William Richardson Jr., Dawn Schupp, Lisa P. Selz, John H. Troy, III, Doris Finch Watson, and Walter Finch Watson.

To commemorate 264 years of the Cemetery and to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Incorporation, the Cemetery Board of Directors requested Doris Finch Watson to author a history book,³ which was distributed at the program. Some of the highlights of the history follow.

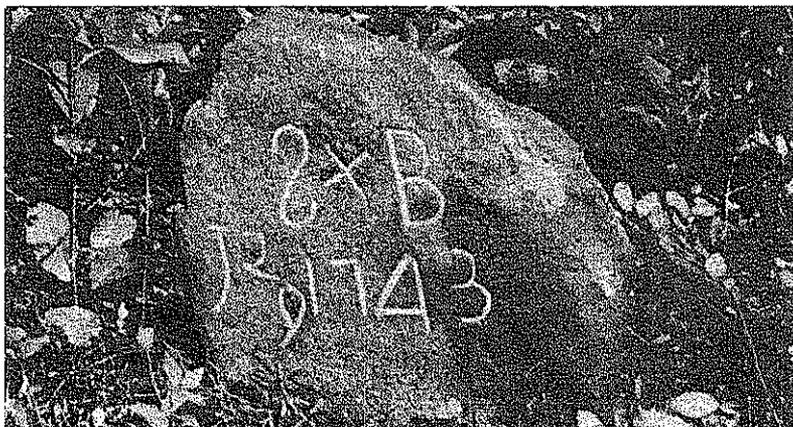
A HISTORY

It was the intention of the author to preserve the story of the hallowed lands of The Middle Patent Rural Cemetery. Its long history of more than two and a half centuries explains the involvement and the efforts of many dedicated people whose concerns and caring decisions have preserved and protected this beloved, peaceful country cemetery.

THE BEGINNING

The Middle Patent Rural Cemetery, nestled in the eastern district of the Town of North Castle, is in the hamlet of Banksville and has its entrance on Middle Patent Road. The name came into use because the area is the middle of the three patents granted on February 17, 1701 by England's King William III.

The Cemetery was once the farmland of Samuel Banks, one of the earliest settlers, arriving c.1695, and when he died his family carried him



1930 Photograph by William E. Finch, Jr., Collection of Doris Finch Watson

THE OLDEST STONE IN THE CEMETERY Samuel Banks, January 29, 1743

³ The Middle Patent Rural Cemetery Association. A History by Doris Finch Watson, 2007

to the top of "the old hill" on his farm where his cattle grazed. He died on January 29, 1743, the date still visible on his field stone marker as shown in the copy of an old photograph taken in the 1930s. His large family owned land almost to the Bedford line, and the hamlet of Banksville bears his name.

Samuel Banks' children and grandchildren married into neighboring families including Finch, Sutherland and Hobby. They, too, are buried on "the old hill" of the Banks family farm, but in places set a little apart from Samuel's grave. Three generations of Samuel Banks' descendants currently live in Banksville.⁴

By the 1780s "the old hill" must have been recognized as the community burial ground. The old stones reveal that members of the Smith, Platt, Reynolds, Lounsberry, Bussing, Peck and Ferris families were buried there, but always a little apart from the Banks and other earliest families. There are sixteen Revolutionary War soldiers buried in that hallowed ground.

THE 1800s

In an effort to find early deeds, Richard N. Lander and the author, both board members, researched in the Land Records office. The earliest written records (other than in family Bibles) are two deeds from the supposed successors in title to Samuel Banks as follows:

David Hobby and Anna his wife to the people of Middle Patent in the Town of North Castle, and Samuel Ferris and Sarah his wife to the same.

Both deeds are dated April 23, 1828 and recorded on May 12, 1828. They grant burial rights to the local citizenry in lands adjoining the original burial ground.

By the 1840s there was little burial space left at the top of "the old hill", and owners of adjoining farms began selling portions of their property to enlarge the Cemetery. This area is now called the Victorian section, and the drives are now Finch Drive and Close Drive. By the 1880s the Victorian section was developed into plots. While some families tried to

⁴ Doris Finch Watson, her son Walter Finch Watson, and his three children, Tucker, Kiley and Casey.

maintain their plots, other plots were left wild and overgrown. Cows grazed among gravestones, fences were broken and headstones were tipped or had fallen down among the weeds and brush. The Cemetery was unkempt and forlorn.

THE NEW CENTURY

By 1900 some of the leading citizens of Banksville were very concerned about the condition of the Cemetery, and it was getting worse. Dr. Ralph B. Griswold, the local physician, and Mr. William S. Finch, the author's grandfather and proprietor of Finch's Country Store, met with the minister of the Middle Patent Methodist Church, the Reverend Harry Cornford, to talk about calling a meeting of local residents and church members to discuss the deplorable condition of the Cemetery.



Collection of Doris Finch Watson

DR. RALPH B. GRISWOLD
(1835-1917)



WILLIAM S. FINCH
(1852-1934)



Collection of the Cemetery

SHADRACH R. CLOSE
(1847-1936)

One of the church members, Shadrach R. Close, became very interested, walked over to inspect the Cemetery and offered his help to Dr. Griswold and Mr. Finch. He began talking to other plot owners and writing letters to those who lived at a distance.

The Rev. Cornford agreed that a meeting could be held in the Church after services on November 5, 1905, and 33 people attended.

Shadrach R. Close was elected chairman, and he explained the necessity of forming an association for the preservation and improvement of the Cemetery. Discussions followed, and three people, Mr. Close, Mrs. Emma Tyler Ungrich and Mrs. Minnie D. Caldwell, were appointed to look into the matter of incorporating an association.

The committee sent out 130 letters to plot owners and to those who might want to become owners. They were each asked to subscribe fifty cents to help with the cost of incorporating, which would entitle the subscriber to membership in the association. The committee received a total of \$28.50, and G. Truman Capron, a White Plains attorney, was retained to incorporate the association.

Ezekiel Reynolds, William S. Finch and Stephen B. Derby were elected Directors until the first annual meeting. Supreme Court Justice Isaac N. Mills signed an order approving the incorporation on January 28, 1907. The certificate of incorporation was filed in Albany, New York, on April 13, 1907. Thus, The Middle Patent Rural Cemetery Association was born, ready to bring new life to the old Cemetery.



Collection of Doris Finch Watson

DR. RALPH B. GRISWOLD HOME⁵

The first Board meeting was held at the Banksville home of Dr. Ralph B. Griswold. Shadrach R. Close was elected president and Emma Tyler Ungrich was elected secretary-treasurer.

NEW LAND

By 1908 new land was needed, and at a Directors' meeting that year Mrs. Ungrich and Mrs. Caldwell were appointed to contact Charles G. Banks of New Rochelle to discuss the purchase of his land in order to straighten the Cemetery property line.

⁵ The house stood across the street from Finch's Country Store in Banksville. The photograph above was taken circa 1898. Refer to the 1991 issue of North Castle History.

The secretary was asked to send appeals to raise \$1,000 to pay for land purchase, new fences, new gates and a driveway. An answer came from Mr. Banks in the form of a letter:



Collection of the Cemetery
CHARLES G. BANKS
(1846-1934)

August 14, 1908

*Dr. R. E. Griswold
Banksville, New York*

Dear Sir,

Enclosed find deed of about three and one-half acres of land that I cheerfully donate to the Middle Patent Rural Cemetery Association. The grounds donated join the old Cemetery on the east.

I have but one request, viz, "That no one be denied a resting place within said grounds on account of nationality, creed, or previous condition."

When these grounds have been plotted I shall want to purchase a lot therein. Kindly present this deed to the Association with my best wishes.

*Very truly yours,
Charles G. Banks*

Another letter was received from John H. Troy, a landscaper and nurseryman who owned Banksville property. He agreed to improve and landscape a portion of the Cemetery property without cost to the Association. Both letters were read at the board meeting, and both gifts were accepted with great thanks.

Other gifts of land were received over the next eight years, and by 1918 the lines of the Cemetery had been straightened.

THE 1930s

Shadrach R. Close continued as President for 28 years, and at the Annual Meeting in 1935 he asked to be replaced due to advanced age and failing health. The Board made fitting tributes to thank him for his leadership in the early founding of the Association, his efforts to acquire more land, his

years of devoted service and his work in establishing the Perpetual Care Fund. The center drive in the Victorian section is named Close Drive in his honor.

At the same Annual Meeting, David B. Reynolds, age 87, asked to be replaced as he could no longer carry on as grounds chairman. He announced that, as his final undertaking, he would install the 850-foot long main drive. The cost was estimated at \$1,000, which Mr. Reynolds, his son, Harry L. Reynolds, and his son-in-law, W. Merton Rice, would contribute. Thus, the entrance drive is named Reynolds Drive in his honor, a tribute to the work and dedication of a man who gave twenty years to make The Middle Patent Rural Cemetery a special place.

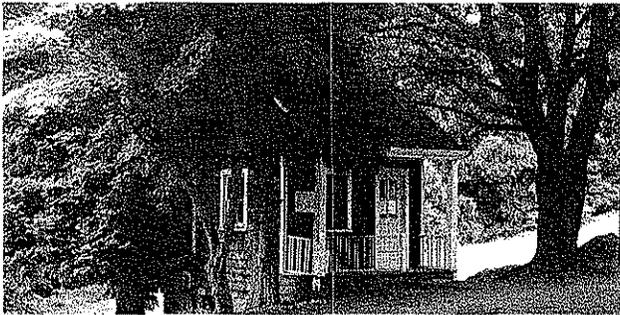


Collection of the Cemetery
DAVID B. REYNOLDS
(1850-1938)

Fortunately, Mr. Reynolds' two sons, David G. and Harry L., Mr. Close's son, Lucius A. Close, Horace G. Arnold and Mr. Finch's grandson, William E. Finch, Jr., stepped into roles of leadership. Mr. Finch served as President for twenty-four years.

THE WORLD WAR II PERIOD

During the war years only burials and necessary work took place due to gasoline rationing and blackout times. By 1947 regular board meetings resumed, and high on the priority list was the need for a small building where the main floor could serve as an office and the basement could hold supplies and equipment. The building was completed that year.



2007 Photograph by Stephen Tomback
CEMETERY OFFICE AND BASEMENT STORAGE

Next, the Board voted to install a drilled well with a hand pump. A small document in the Cemetery files reads: "This Artesian Well is dedicated as a living memorial by members of The Middle Patent Rural Cemetery Association who made its erection possible." The little document is dated May 10, 1948 and shows the well has a depth of 150 feet and that the water tested 100% pure.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The 50th Anniversary Program was held on Sunday, September 22, 1957 in honor of those who had contributed so much time, effort, monetary gifts, land and leadership. The event was held in the Middle Patent Church, the place where the first meeting about the Cemetery was held. The business meeting was conducted by President Finch beginning at 2:00 p.m., followed by a Memorial Service at 3:00 p.m., and at 4:00 p.m. there was the dedication and unveiling of the Elroy Smith Memorial. The program concluded with a prayer of dedication, closing remarks by President Finch and refreshments.

THE BUSY 1960s AND 1970s

In 1960 Doris Finch Watson, the author, was elected to the Board of Directors, and by 1962 was elected Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. She set about securing Internal Revenue tax-exempt status (501-c-13), which was granted to The Middle Patent Rural Cemetery on August 3, 1965.

The early 1960 minutes of the Board reflect the desire to obtain land out to Bedford-Banksville Road, including the Mianus stream as it flows northward. R. Eugene Curry, the President, took an active role in this effort. He and Mrs. Curry, at their own expense, purchased the property and held it until the Board established a fund drive.

Approval for the Cemetery to increase its size had to be secured from two sources: the New York State Cemetery Board and the Supreme Court of the State of New York, where the required application was filed on December 31, 1965. Approval was received, and the Cemetery purchased the land from the Curry family in 1966.

The 60th Anniversary Program on September 10, 1967 included a "land acquisition" report and an appeal for funds to develop a lake. The appeal was successful, and plans for the lake and a memorial continued. Plans

did not include an island. Mrs. Watson, the author, convinced the Board that an island would add character and aesthetic beauty; the island is called "Dorrie's Island".

During 1973 the dream of a lake became a reality. An invitation to "A Program of Dedication of the Memorial Plaque, Lake and Island" for September 16, 1973 was sent to all plot owners, contributors and neighbors. A gala celebration and unveiling of the memorial plaque ensued.

Richard N. Lander, who had been elected Secretary-Treasurer in 1953 and served that post for 17 years, announced at the September 1970 Annual Meeting that he would retire. He was honored and thanked for his on-going dedication and devotion and was then elected Vice President. Dick later served as President from 1976 until 1991. At that same meeting, Doris Finch Watson was elected Secretary-Treasurer, and R. Eugene Curry continued as President.

THE 1980s AND 1990s

In the 1980s the Board of Directors began discussions about building a columbarium to fill a special need. A committee of R. Eugene Curry, Charles Elson and Dorrie Watson went to work researching other columbariums, mapping out a location and securing building quotes. By September 1987 the Columbarium was completed. It overlooks the quiet beauty of Finch Drive.

In the late 1980s there was a need for more burial space. Work on the south field was completed by 1990, and plots were being sold in the area called Curry Drive. The project of developing that area into burial ground with roadway, trees, lawns, and sections of one, two, three and four grave plots cost nearly \$150,000.

2000 AND ONWARD

In the early years of 2000 the Board undertook a landscaping design for the Curry Drive section. Trees were planted, a large boulder was placed near the old well at the exit from Curry Drive, and evergreen plantings were added in various areas. At Finch Drive, the Columbarium was extended with an eastern section, and new grass and plants were added near the wire fence on the south wall of that section.

The Cemetery Board of Directors has continued a long-standing tradition of holding work sessions to clean old gravestones. They come with equipment, work gloves and cleaning tools, and their work continues to make a tremendous difference in the appearance of the Colonial and Victorian sections.



Together we must build a strong Perpetual Care Fund to support and to maintain these hallowed lands, for they have been entrusted to our care. Now, and for the future, we must preserve and cherish them.

Collection of Jeffrey Krack
DIRECTORS AT WORK
JUNE 2007

SPECIAL FEATURES IN THE CEMETERY

There are several monuments erected and roads named to pay tribute to special people:

The Roadways and Island. Various drives in the Cemetery honor special people or families. Banks Drive, the original old drive winding up to “the old hill” is named for Samuel Banks, the first burial. Reynolds Drive bears the name of the man who donated it. Finch Drive honors the early Finch family who worked to save the Cemetery. Close Drive recalls the dedication of Shadrach Close. Smith Drive honors Elroy Smith for his generosity. Lander Drive pays tribute to Richard N. Lander who served as Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President and President. Curry Drive honors R. Eugene Curry for his dedication, for holding the lake property until the funds could be raised to purchase it from him, and for his work as President of the Board. The island in the lake is called Dorrie’s Island, honoring Doris Finch Watson for her on-going work and dedication to the Cemetery since 1960.

The Elroy Smith Monument. Mr. Smith was born in North Castle, attended local schools, worked his large farm and served on the Cemetery Board. He died on Christmas Day, 1931, and in his Will he directed that an endowment be created to help the Cemetery where he and family members are buried.

The Charles G. Banks Monument. Mr. Banks responded to the Cemetery Board's request and donated three and one-half acres of land. Mr. Banks ordered the monument that stands near the entrance today. It is about thirty feet tall, made of Quincy granite, and is surmounted by the "Angel Gabriel" made of Italian marble. On the base of the monument is a bronze tablet with these words cast into it:

THE SURROUNDING HILLS, VALLEYS, WATER COURSES, ROCKS, AND WOODLANDS WERE SILENT COMPANIONS OF BOYHOOD.

-- LET ME REST HERE AWHILE --

REGARDLESS OF CREED, CLASS OR CONDITION, A PORTION OF THIS MONUMENT IS DEDICATED TO THE UNKNOWN AND UNMARKED GRAVES IN THIS CEMETERY, TO ALL WHO BELONG HERE WITHIN THE OCEAN'S BOSOM, IN UNKNOWN GRAVES, IN THIS AND FOREIGN LANDS, IN THE DUST OF ETERNITY SLEEP.

CHARLES G. BANKS

Bicentennial Plaque. This metal marker was installed in 1976 to mark North Castle's oldest burial place, 1743, and to honor fifteen soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War. Later, one more name was added, bringing the total to sixteen.⁶

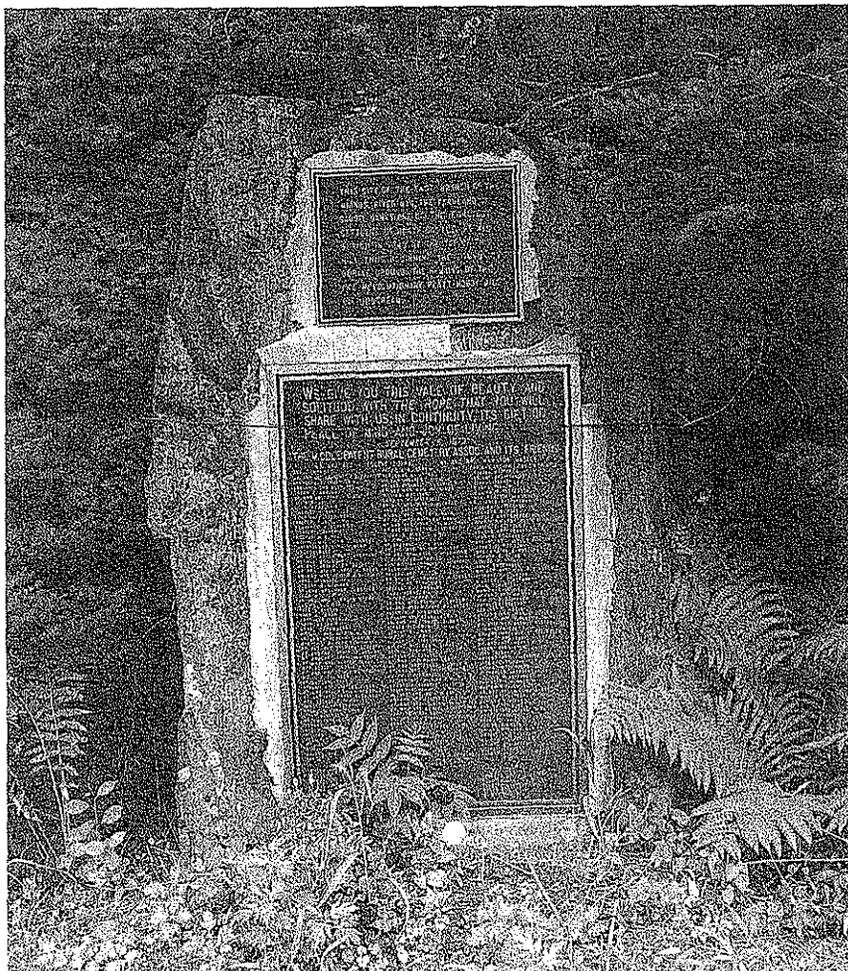
The Lake Memorial. In 1973 the lake was completed and a program of dedication was held on September 16, 1973. The lake and island were made possible by donations and the names of the contributors appear on the plaque.



2007 Photograph by Stephen Tomback

A PASTORAL VIEW OF THE LAKE, DORRIE'S ISLAND AND THE BRIDGE

⁶ Each year Armonk American Legion Post #1097 marks all Veterans' graves with American Flags.



2007 Photograph by Stephen Tomback

LAKE MEMORIAL DEDICATED SEPTEMBER 16, 1973

The Banks Memorial. This tribute by the Association is located in the circle midway up the main drive, and its bronze tablet reads:

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES G. BANKS WHO DONATED THESE
GROUNDS FOR BURIAL PURPOSES REQUESTING THAT NO ONE BE
DENIED A RESTING PLACE HERE ON ACCOUNT OF NATIONALITY,
CREED OR PREVIOUS CONDITION.

BY THE ASSOCIATION

The Columbarium. In September 1987 the Columbarium for burial of cremated remains was completed in the southwest corner of the Cemetery. It overlooks the quiet beauty of Finch Drive.

AN INVITATION

We invite you to visit, to stroll to the top of “the old hill” and to see the 1743 gravestone of Samuel Banks. Walk down Finch Drive to the Columbarium Wall. Wander down the hillside to the Lake Memorial Plaque; view the lake and Dorrie’s Island.

Reflect for a moment; think about those hearty forebears who have gone before and who have given us this beautiful vale filled with peace and solitude.

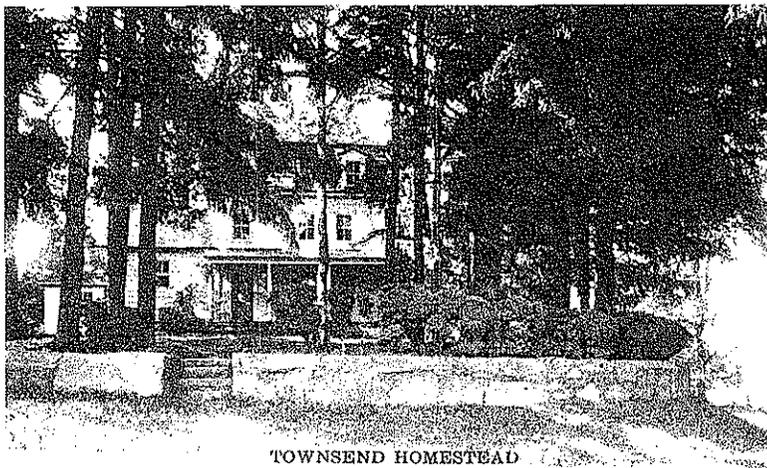


2007 Photograph by Stephen Tomback

THE “ANGEL GABRIEL”

Standing atop the 30-foot high Charles G. Banks monument, the “Angel Gabriel” watches over the Cemetery’s peaceful lands and tranquil lake.

wife Elizabeth Hunt. She was a granddaughter of Israel Townsend.⁵ Her sister Edith married Rev. Henry N. Wayne, a minister for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church for many years. The Wayne home was used for church services when St. Stephen's was in disrepair and not usable.⁶ At its October 10, 1842 organizational meeting, the newly formed St. Stephen's Episcopal Church elected Israel Townsend and Samuel B. Ferris the first two Wardens of the Church. Later, two of Townsend's descendants donated the chandelier and pulpit lamps to St. Stephen's.⁷



TOWNSEND HOMESTEAD
Birthplace of Mrs. Carrie Townsend Carpenter

Reprinted from the Memorial Booklet

TOWNSEND HOMESTEAD AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY⁸ Main Street (New York State Route 128), Armonk

⁵ Genealogy records in the collections of The Society indicate that Israel Townsend (born 1791) was a son of another Israel Townsend (1742-1832) and his wife Phebe (sic) Weeks. He died in 1855 when he was 64 years of age. The 1850 Federal Census for the area reports a Samuel Townsend, age 28, Head of Household; Elizabeth, age 25, Wife; Caroline, age 2, Child. According to J. Thomas Scharf in his 1886 History of Westchester County, New York, Samuel O. and Elizabeth had three children: Caroline L., wife of Reese Carpenter, residents of Brooklyn; Edith, wife of Rev. Henry N. Wayne, residents of Staten Island; and Samuel E., who was residing with his father in North Castle.

⁶ Refer to the 1992 issue of North Castle History for further information.

⁷ Dorinda Townsend Hyatt and Melissa Townsend Howes made the donation. Refer to the 2001 issue of North Castle History.

⁸ Lyman T. Seely, in his A History of St. Stephen's Church, reported that there were two townsend homes, one known as the "Red House" and the other as the "White House", which was still standing on Old Mt. Kisco Road at the time of his writing. Refer to the 2001 issue of North Castle History.



Photographs from Collection of The Society

ISRAEL TOWNSEND⁹ (1791-1855)

SAMUEL O. TOWNSEND (1821-1891)

Carrie was descended from one of the oldest North Castle families, the Townsends, who reportedly moved to North Castle from Oyster Bay, Long Island in 1775. She married into another of the oldest North Castle families, the Carpenters.



Photographs from Collection of The Society

DAVID CARPENTER (1812-1902)

REESE CARPENTER (1789-1871)

Family genealogy records in the collections of The Society indicate Reese Carpenter's lineage goes back to Timothy Carpenter who, according to tradition, was the first white child born in the area (1698) and the Indians were so intrigued that they gave him 100 acres of land. Timothy had a son whom he named Timothy.¹⁰ The second Timothy married Phebe (sic)

⁹ Israel Townsend (1742-1832) and his wife Phebe (sic) Weeks (1752-1836) and Israel Townsend II (1791-1855) and his wife Phebe (sic) Sands (1794-1864) are buried in the Townsend Family Cemetery in Armonk. Israel Townsend (1791-1855) became the second postmaster of Armonk, following Job Sands.

¹⁰ Historical Society Trustee Melissa (Missy) Taylor White, daughter of Erling J. (Bumpy) Taylor and his wife Sue Bohner, traces her ancestry to Timothy Carpenter.

Coles and they had a son named William. William Carpenter and his wife Deborah Cock had a son who spelled his name "Rees." Reportedly William Carpenter lived in a log house on a hill on Bedford Road between present-day Niles and Hunter Avenues. The hill was removed during the reconstruction of Route 22 in the late 1960s. Rees Carpenter (1789-1871) served as a Supervisor of the Town of North Castle from 1833 to 1836 and again from 1838 to 1839. Rees Carpenter and his wife Sarah Bowron had a son David who married Anna Bailey Owen whose son Reese Carpenter married Carrie Townsend.¹¹



Photograph by Stephen Tomback

**REESE CARPENTER (d. 1914)¹³
from an Original Oil Portrait,
Collections of Kensico Cemetery**

"... he gained that best of man's possessions, a sympathetic wife."¹²

After Carrie's marriage to Reese Carpenter on November 2, 1870, she and her husband lived on 13th Street in New York City. They moved to St. Marks Avenue in Brooklyn in 1875. A son, Orlando Townsend Carpenter, was born November 23, 1871; a daughter, Edith Wayne Carpenter, was born September 10, 1873; and another son, Reese Buddington Carpenter, on March 3, 1875.¹⁴

Due to Mr. Carpenter's failing health, which the memorial booklet refers to as "a severe illness" that threatened "a complete breakdown", he

¹¹ Spelling variants "Rees" and "Reese" are correct. Refer to the 1980 issue of North Castle History for a photograph of the David Carpenter house and the Carpenter Store, both located at Sands Mills. David and Anna Bailey Owen Carpenter and Reese and Carrie Carpenter are buried at Kensico Cemetery.

¹² Information from the Carrie Townsend Carpenter Memorial Booklet.

¹³ The 1879 Brooklyn telephone directory listed Reese Carpenter as operating an iron business at 104 Water Street, New York City. His home address was listed as 106 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn.

¹⁴ Orlando Townsend Carpenter died in 1960. Reese Buddington Carpenter died in 1890. Both are buried at Kensico Cemetery.

bought a farm in Mt. Kisco in 1883, moved the family there in the spring of 1884 and later moved to Kensico.¹⁵

“...But of society in general she was never fond...”¹⁶

Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter’s social activities were numerous and their calendar was full. Among the many interesting public functions that they attended was the famous ‘Americus Club Ball,’¹⁷ which was the precursor of the downfall of the notorious Tweed regime.

The memorial booklet relates that during the time of residence at Mt. Kisco, and in going to and from New York City on the railroad, they had often observed a beautiful tract of land at Kensico, near what is now known as Valhalla. The thought came to them that here was a site in the country for a cemetery that would be a credit to the greatest city in the Western Hemisphere. He organized The Kensico Cemetery in 1890.¹⁸ Soon afterwards Mr. Carpenter purchased a farm, located south of The Kensico Cemetery property, overlooking the Long Island Sound.

“The charming comfortable house, the pleasant garden, and their estate as a whole were all beholden to her well-directed efforts and loving care. With her own hands she set out plants and shrubs and supervised the planting of trees. She was always grieved and annoyed by the cutting down or destruction of a tree. She knew the names and nature of them all and nothing delighted her more than to spend her time with those whose fondness and enthusiasm for plant life, in all its interesting phases, equaled her own.”¹⁹

¹⁵ Information from the Carrie Townsend Carpenter Memorial Booklet.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Indian Harbor Hotel was the summer home of the Americus Club and the infamous political club of William M. “Boss” Tweed, President; Edward W. Jacobs, Vice President; William B. Dunley, Treasurer; and Charles H. Hall, Secretary. Members of the Club included “Hand” Smith, Owen W. Brennan, Richard B. Connolly, Isaac J. Oliver, John J. Blair, Police Justice Edward Hogan, Andrew J. Garvey and many other politicians. Their tiger badges were solid gold. Augustus Mead owned the Greenwich property. The New York Times reported in the February 24, 1895 issue that E. C. Benedict had purchased the Indian Harbor Hotel, Greenwich, Connecticut and would demolish it to build three new residences.

¹⁸ Son Reese Buddington Carpenter was buried in the family plot at Kensico Cemetery on July 11, 1890.

¹⁹ Information from the Carrie Townsend Carpenter Memorial Booklet.

\$100,000 for 2,000 Shares of the Kensico Cemetery in 1907

“Mrs. Carpenter’s instinctive love of nature, her knowledge of, and delight in flowers and shrubs and trees, enabled her to abet her husband’s plans and quicken his enthusiasm; and thus again she contributed materially to his success in a new field of endeavor.

That her heart was in this work is indicated by her appropriation of two thousand shares of The Kensico Cemetery, equivalent to one hundred thousand dollars at the time, for the erection of a nobly planned chapel at the entrance of the cemetery, the corner-stone of which was laid with notable services on Memorial Day, 1907. Kensico Chapel was not completed during Mrs. Carpenter’s lifetime, on account of difficulties that arose from the invasion of the cemetery by the great Catskill Aqueduct. The disturbing character of the work incident to the construction of that great piece of engineering and the controversies incident thereto, caused Mrs. Carpenter great anxiety and keen disappointment ...”²⁰



2007 Photograph by Stephen Tomback
CARPENTER GRAVESTONES
Kensico Cemetery

Early Sunday morning, September 24, 1911, “an ideally beautiful day, (Mr. Carpenter) looked in at his wife ... and saw that ... the beloved partner of his life, had already awakened in Paradise.”²¹ He lived another three years. Carrie and Reese Carpenter are buried in their plot at Kensico Cemetery.

During December, 2005, Society member Judy Johnson Zelter sent a copy of an obituary appearing in the New York Times: “Carpenter – Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York office of the society

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

Fraunces Tavern cor. Broad and Pearl Sts. New York, Jan. 15, 1914: The members of this society are requested to attend the funeral services of their late associate, Reese Carpenter, at his late residence, Valhalla, N.Y., Friday, Jan. 16 at 11 o'clock. EDMUND WETMORE, President. H. R. DROWNE, Secretary."

Judy also contributed a copy of the August 15, 1938, New York Times obituary for David Conklin Kipp, who was a superintendent of the Kensico Cemetery for forty years. According to the obituary, Mr. Kipp's uncle, "the late Reese Carpenter", founded the Kensico Cemetery.²²

"the most perfect and orderly manner ..."

An Annual Report to the Lot Proprietors of Kensico Cemetery during the early 1890s promised that during a funeral the attendants would be dressed in black suits and hats and that they would maintain "the most perfect and orderly manner..."²³



2007 Photograph by Stephen Tomback

EARLY PICTURE OF THE KENSICO CEMETERY TRAIN STATION
from the Collection of Kensico Cemetery

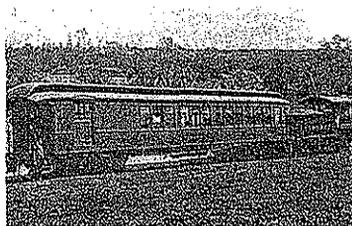
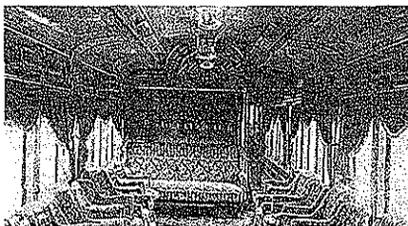
²² Mr. Kipp was born in Armonk village on August 14, 1867, a son of John J. and Mrs. Ellen B. Carpenter Kipp. No surviving children were reported. His widow, Grace Bayles Kipp, and two sisters, Mrs. Frank M. Campbell of Valhalla and Mrs. Ira Ganung of Mount Kisco, were listed as surviving family members.

²³ A Tribute in Time, Kensico Cemetery, Judith C. Mitchell, Editor.

For many years the Kensico Cemetery was reputed to be the rich man's burial garden. A list of the earlier burials reads as a 'Who's Who' of the acclaimed judges, lawyers, industrialists, financiers, manufacturers, theatrical performers and musicians at the turn of the century. An early list of Directors of Kensico Cemetery includes James Fountain Sutton, oriental art expert; Samuel I. Knight, stationer; Chauncey M. Depew, railroad tycoon and later U.S. Senator; Phineas Lounsbury, financier and later Governor of Connecticut; William Early Dodge Stokes, New York City real estate developer; Horace C. Duval and Allen S. Apgar, both bankers; and Gardner Wetherbee, hotel owner.²⁴

“without the slightest contact with the traveling public.”

The 1897 Annual Report described a special train car, called the Car Kensico, which had three compartments, one for the deceased, one accommodating twelve of the immediate family members, and the third accommodating up to thirty friends and relatives. It was designed to carry mourners roundtrip to the Kensico Cemetery Station from Grand Central Station in absolute privacy “without the slightest contact with the traveling public.”²⁵



Photographs from Collection of the Kensico Cemetery

CAR KENSICO **Described in the 1897 Kensico Cemetery Annual Report**

Special appreciation to Jean Whalley Lopuch, Judy Johnson Zelyer and Judith C. Mitchell. Jean donated the memorial booklet that started the process; Judy shared her research; Judith also shared her research and knowledge of the history of Kensico Cemetery. Judith graciously received Town Historian Doris Finch Watson, Stephen and Sharon Tomback at Kensico Cemetery on a cold Saturday morning in January so that they could photograph the pictures and scenes used in this article.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

SCENES FROM THE PAST: DO YOU RECOGNIZE SOMEONE?



Reprinted from the May 6, 1970 Issue of North Castle News

THE ZODIACS, A FIFE & DRUM CORPS, 1970 American Legion Post 1097, Armonk

The photograph was published in the Wednesday, May 6, 1970 edition of North Castle News. The young women pictured were photographed on the steps of the Legion Hall just before marching in the Little League parade the previous Saturday. [L-R], back row: Genie Bounous, Barbara Arnold, Sue Palamarczuk, Linda Neeves; 3rd row: Nancy Dahms, Diane Baviello, Laura Viscusi, Arlene Bozzuto; 2nd row: Dale French, Donna French, Jeanne McInnes, Joanne Padilla, Nancy Pember, Donna Abrams, Cindy Herbst; Front row: Claudia Larsen, Donna Tompkins, Colleen Zulauf, Peggy Rubenstein, Captain Jill Pember, Georgeanne Briggs, Bonnie Briggs, Patty Boscamp, Kim Reinartz. Allison Clapp helped train the Fife & Drum Corps members. Robert Clapp instructed them.

Joseph Wago, Sr. purchased the Townsend house and property.¹ A 1932 zoning map prepared for the Town of North Castle shows “Jos. Wago” as the owner. The Wago family photograph is interesting for several reasons. The house pictured on the right behind the cars is the Townsend house in which Carrie Townsend Carpenter was born.²

The front car pictured resembles a 1918 Dodge. Pumpkins and baskets of items that resemble apples and potatoes are being sold from the farm stand. The wagon behind the farm stand would have required a horse to pull it. The stand was temporary, with boards resting on barrels. The road (Armonk’s Main Street) is unpaved.

The man seated on the wagon is Joseph Wago, Sr. He died in 1967 and is buried in the Middle Patent Rural Cemetery. His wife, Elizabeth, is the woman at the left of the photograph. She died in 1974 and is also buried in the Middle Patent Rural Cemetery. Notice her long dress. The customers in front are believed to include Judge Julius Raven and members of the Ryan family.

The little girl in the picture sitting in the wagon behind Joseph Wago is his daughter, Goldie. She appears to be about six years old. She was born October 15, 1912 in Cairo, Michigan. Her parents had gone there as migrant farm workers to pick sugar beets. Goldie grew up in Armonk. She married John Hergenhan, who later became the first Chief of Police for North Castle. He served 40 years on the Police force before his retirement in 1969.³

Please share your memories and photographs.

¹ Barbara Wago DiGiacinto, who donated this photograph, is the Wagos’ granddaughter and a Trustee of The North Castle Historical Society.

² Refer to North Castle History, 2001 issue, for a discussion of the Townsend family and their house and property. The house was remodeled many times over the years. Refer to another photograph of the house in this issue appearing in the Carrie Townsend Carpenter article.

³ The old Armonk Fire House on Maple Avenue has been remodeled for use by the North Castle Parks and Recreation Department and in a dedication ceremony on April 21, 2007 was renamed the John and Goldie Hergenhan Recreation Center in honor of this couple.

A TREASURE SAVED

by Doris Finch Watson, North Castle Town Historian

If you have driven along Mianus River Road, you have passed this little "treasure." This little "half house" has long been known as the Daniel Smith House, and current research has uncovered additional and interesting facts.

The trail begins with an early deed, handwritten and yellow with age. It is dated "the fifteenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred Eighty and four." The deed covers a sale of property from John Pine to Benjamin Smith and refers to "a certain tract or parcel of land whereon I now live."¹

Further research into North Castle Town Minutes shows John Pine holding a position as Overseer of Roads from Bedford to the Middle Patent line in April 1772.²

Thus, his statement in the deed referring to the house "whereon I now live" means that the little house was there earlier than the 1784 date given to the house. We now believe it was built before 1772.

The deed includes the words "and discharge him the said Benjamin Smith, his heirs and assigns forever."

FROM SMITH TO SMITH

Daniel Smith, Benjamin's heir, owned the little house before 1800. On February 12, 1816 he deeded it to his son Daniel L. Smith, including 150 acres of land "bounded on the east by the Mahanas (Mianus River) and on the west by the road."

Daniel L. Smith died in 1824 and Samuel Smith was his executor. He deeded 100 acres "and appurtenances" to another Benjamin Smith. This left about 59 acres in the original estate, and it must have been difficult to settle the estate, for many relatives became involved in various deeds in 1825.

¹ The original early Deed, a gift from the Bedford Town Historian's office, was delivered this year to the North Castle Town Historian Doris Finch Watson for the collections of The North Castle Historical Society.

² Historical Records North Castle/New Castle, 1736-1791, Volume 1, Town of New Castle, Town of North Castle, 1975.

By 1867 it was referred to on a map as the Daniel Smith Estate, apparently still unsettled.³

A CHANGE IN OWNERS

By 1893 G. W. Hall owned the property and continued to live in the little house until his death in 1933. The next owners were Mr. and Mrs. William Bradford Hubbell who sold to Mr. and Mrs. George Faithful. The Faithfuls lived in the little house until they built a larger house farther back on the property.

After Mr. Faithful's death Mrs. Faithful married Judge Bonsal and upon her death in April 2004 the house was left to her daughters.

A TIME OF CONCERN

On June 13, 2004 the author of this article in her capacity as Town Historian wrote a letter to the North Castle Town Board advising them that "the little house" is a great treasure and hopefully could be preserved as part of North Castle's historic past. She asked them to alert the various boards and the building department to make people aware that this "treasure" was going into the hands of a real estate agent.

Mrs. Mary Connie Levene bought the little house, and its future remained uncertain.

THE "TREASURE" IS SAVED

A nearby neighbor, Mr. Jean-Paul Valles, who has a great appreciation and love for early history, began to seriously consider saving the little house.

He contacted Mrs. Levene, and in January 2007 Mr. and Mrs. Valles bought the little house with three and one-third acres.

Mr. Valles has carefully and faithfully restored the house to its Colonial look and is replacing the original back porch, which was torn off a few years ago due to its deteriorating condition.

He has donated the fully restored house, the barn and the acres he purchased, in a conservation easement to the Mianus Gorge Preserve, where he is an active member and serves as the Board chairman.

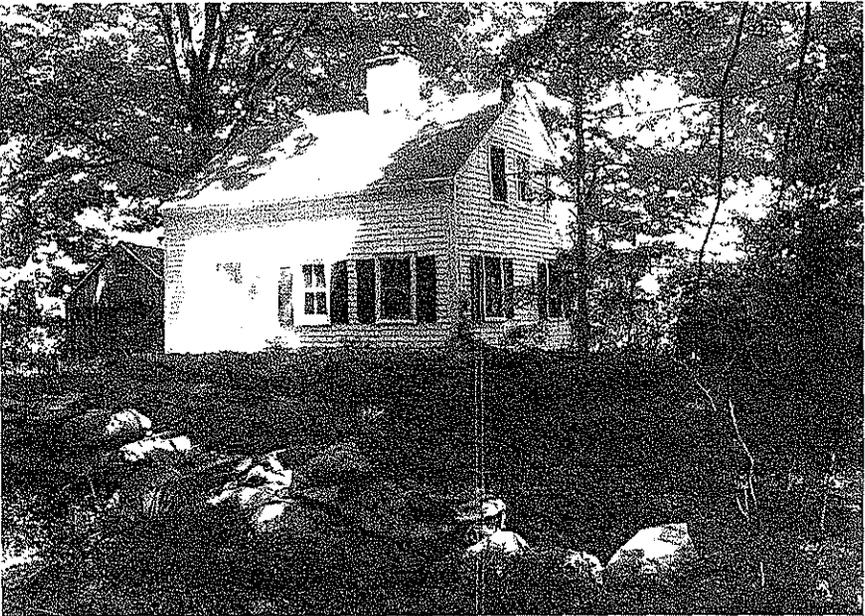
³ Beers Atlas, North Castle Map, 1867.

When asked about this great accomplishment (which has been a hands-on work), Jean-Paul, with his usual smile, states, “I must have been out of my mind – but it has been great fun.”

His “Little House” embodies our North Castle roots – a small, unpretentious farming community.

A salute to Jean-Paul Valles for his caring, his generosity and his heroic efforts to save and restore a true “treasure” in our township. Now, the Daniel Smith House has been saved; it will stand so that we, as well as future generations, can view and understand the lifestyles of long ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Valles, we thank you.



Collection of Jean-Paul Valles

THE DANIEL SMITH HOUSE, 2007

**THE ELIJAH MILLER HOUSE
and
WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS¹**

Will this National Register Landmark be preserved?

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL CITIZENS TO VOICE CONCERN. Your notes of concern may be mailed to Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, 25 Moore Avenue, Mt. Kisco, New York 10549, to the attention of Mr. John Baker.

Built in 1738, with an addition about 1770, the little farmhouse has stood on Virginia Road in North White Plains for almost 270 years.

Elijah Miller and two of the Miller sons died fighting for our Country. In 1976 the Miller House was added to the National Register of Historic Places as one of General Washington's Headquarters during the American Revolution.² The people of Westchester County have owned it since 1917, and its protection has been entrusted to the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation.

Over the years the White Plains Chapter, NSDAR, has provided artifacts and furnishings and donated many hours of time to the Headquarters. They continue to be interested and concerned. Chapter members hold a prayer service atop Miller Hill annually the third Sunday in October.

North Castle Town Historian Doris Finch Watson expressed great concern to the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and to the North Castle Town Board. In 2005 the Town of North Castle established the Miller House Committee³, and a series of meetings with County personnel followed and continue to this day.

During 2007 a group of resolute North Castle residents⁴ joined together and staffed Washington's Headquarters on the third Sunday of each month. On October 28, 2007 an afternoon celebration marking 90 years of ownership by the people of Westchester County was held at The Miller House. Congratulatory letters from Reese Berman, Supervisor of the Town of North Castle, and from Kenneth Markunas, Historic Sites

¹ Refer to North Castle History, 2004 issue.

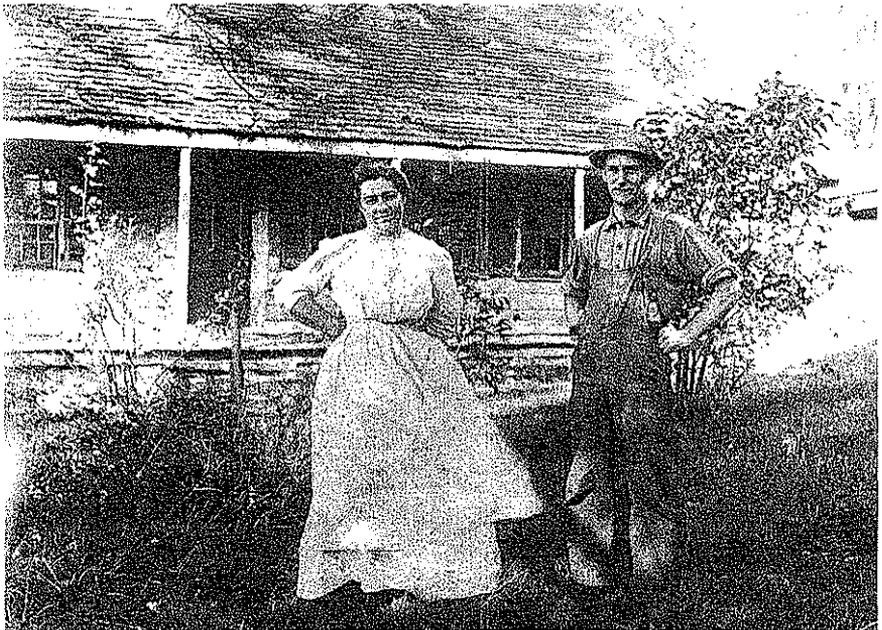
² North Castle has three sites listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. The other two are Smith's Tavern and Bedford Road Historic District.

³ Co-Chaired by North Castle Councilmen Gerald Geist and Becky Kittredge.

⁴ The group included Mary Lou Birns, Kate Hohl, Richard Nardi, Joan Solazzo, and many of their neighbors and friends.

Restoration Coordinator for New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, were read. Carmino Ravosa entertained all with a rendition of the musical "1776." Gigi Carnes, a Westchester County employee who previously worked at the site, was on hand to provide historic interpretation and tours. North Castle Town Historian Doris Finch Watson offered a congratulatory speech. Representatives of the White Plains Chapter, NSDAR, were also on hand to offer congratulations. The events of the day were presented as a tribute to those who fought and died to establish our Country.

The building continues to deteriorate without needed repairs. We await action by the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. A long-promised structural integrity study and preservation plans for the future of this 1738 treasure are critically needed. Safeguarding the Elijah Miller House and Washington's Headquarters is a duty entrusted to us by previous generations for almost 270 years. Now is the time for all citizens to voice concern.



Collection of The North Castle Historical Society

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES KAISER, circa 1917
The last private owners of the Elijah Miller House
and Washington's Headquarters

BROOKER'S MAPLE SHADE - ARMONK, NEW YORK

"Eat Here, Diet Home" or "Eat Here, Die at Home"

Fred Brooker operated the little wooden food stand (pictured on our front cover) during the 1930s. It stood facing Main Street in front of the present-day Hickory and Tweed Ski Shop, the house pictured behind the food stand on the front cover. Samuel B. Ferris built the main house about 1860 on speculation. We do not know who built the little food stand.

A succession of ten owners held the property before 1927, when Mr. Brooker bought it. He and a relative, Mae Brooker, changed the wheelwright barn on the property into a large tavern, called "The Old Town Tavern" which is now part of the Hickory and Tweed building. Brookers' Estate sold to John Dahms, who sold to Jim Ross in 1961. The present owner is Skip Beitzel.

Historical Society member Erling J. (Bumpy) Taylor remembers the food stand which locals referred to as 'the hot dog stand' and that Fred Brooker lived in the house behind. Bumpy also remembers the 'gin mill'. Mr. Brooker worked as a train engineer; Bumpy's father worked as a fireman for the railroad.

Notice the signs posted on the food stand. Centered under the window is one reading "HOT FRANKS." The long ones on either side of the serving window read "Thirsty? Just WHISTLE." Two signs on the front of the building advertise the recognized brands of Canada Dry and Coca-Cola. To the right of the building the white sign reads, "SANDWICHES" and lists Chicken, Club, Ham, Tongue, Cheese, and Combination.

The best sign of all is the one above the building that reads "EAT HERE, DIET HOME" which quickly (of course!) came to be read as "EAT HERE, DIE AT HOME".

Please forward any corrections or additions to the information presented herein and/or your constructive suggestions for improving this publication to your editorial board at The North Castle Historical Society, Historic Smith's Tavern, 440 Bedford Road, Armonk, New York 10504. If you would be willing to research and/or author an article, please let us know. Different writers and diverse perspectives are vital.

Reprints of North Castle History may be ordered from

THE NORTH CASTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

440 Bedford Road - Armonk, New York 10504

914-273-4510